

DOD gives advice on SARS precautions

WASHINGTON — The Department of Defense is advising military and civilian personnel to take precaution against the potentially deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The advisory is especially for those traveling in the Far East, where the flu-like virus is believed to have originated.

SARS has killed more than 79 people worldwide and raised concerns within DOD about the potential impact to deploying forces and current operations.

However, Dr. David Tornberg, deputy assistant defense secretary for clinical programs and policy, emphasized that no component in DOD, to include the military services, had a SARS problem. He indicated there have been no reported cases of SARS in DOD.

Mr. Tornberg said, however, DOD is “taking precautions” because of concern for military personnel being exposed to the virus and someone subsequently catching the disease.

“Health risk communications have gone out to the force, the combatant commanders are aware of the threat, they’re following the disease closely, and they are taking initiatives to protect the troops,” Mr. Tornberg said.

“It’s prudent to be very wary of any communicable disease, or any disease that adversely affects our service personnel, that decreases their efficiency and their combat readiness,” he said.

SARS is a mysterious respiratory illness that has flu-like symptoms. Researchers studying the disease have yet to determine its exact cause or origin. Symptoms include fever, body aches, headaches, sore throat, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the syndrome may be associated with other symptoms, including headache, muscular stiffness and loss of appetite, malaise, confusion, rash and diarrhea.

Tornberg said 90 percent of the people who have SARS- related infections recover uneventfully. “It’s only 10 percent [of people] that have severe trouble, and consequences in the worst cases can lead to death,” he noted.

As of April 10, the World Health Organization reported 2,781 probable SARS cases in 19 countries. According to CDC, the United States had 166 suspected cases, as of April 9.

In doing so, Mr. Tornberg said that DOD is discouraging travel to certain Far East countries and asking personnel to follow State Department and CDC travel advisories. He said only “essential travel” should be taken in countries that have high concentrations of SARS cases. *(Courtesy of American Forces Press Service.)*



Higher education
Dr. Claudia Limbert, Mississippi University for Women president, watches while Capt. Andrea Misener, 50th Flying Training Squadron flight commander, shows her the functions of the flight instruments. Limbert flew in a T-38C Talon as part of the orientation flight program for civic leaders.

19th AF command chief visits base

Airman Alexis Lloyd
Public affairs

The 19th Air Force command chief visited Columbus AFB April 9 to April 11.

Chief Master Sgt. Herbert Williams visited base agencies and served as guest speaker for Airman Leadership School Class 03-4’s graduation.

Chief Williams toured the fire department, 14th Operations Group, 14th Security Forces Squadron 14th Medical Group, 14th Military Personnel Flight and 14th Comptroller Flight.

More than 30 airmen gathered at the Cardinal Inn Dining Facility for breakfast and the group had the chief’s undivided attention April 10. During this time, the chief gave the airmen a few words of encouragement and advice.

“I didn’t know if I was going to make the Air Force a career,” Chief Williams said. “I was only going to do my four [years] and leave — 27 years later I’m still here.”

Friends from back home are different from military friends. “You wear a uniform to work everyday. When you put on this uniform, you become a better person.

See CHIEF, Page 2

Volunteering — good for soul, heart, community

Pam Warnken
Public affairs

National Volunteer Week kicks off April 27 reminding Columbus AFB that volunteer opportunities in the local area can bring benefits to the base, self and others.

Author Allan Luks has documented physical responses when people step out to help others. He said volunteers’ positive experiences include a more optimistic outlook on life — a sense of feeling more connected to others and improved calmness and relaxation.

Lori Kessler, director of the local United Way, praised Columbus AFB for its constant helping hand, even in the face of daunting workloads, long days and unfamiliarity with the local area.

“Whether it’s giving money during the Combined Federal Campaign or turning out sandwiches after a tornado, Columbus AFB is always there for us,” Ms. Kessler said. “I just don’t know what we’d do without our base friends.”

Last year, the company grade officers council collected almost 13,000 canned goods to fill the pantry of the Salvation Army’s Mark Mitchell Shelter for Children in Columbus. In this year’s drive, CGOC has collected over 5,500 items so far, with the drive ending today. The 14th Communications Squadron is leading in the donations, with the 48th Flying Training Squadron close behind.

In other areas, base personnel poured into the town to help after a November tornado left hundreds of people homeless and without power. During the recent Pilgrimage, base people gave nearly 1,000 hours as historic interpreters and helpers at the Tennessee Williams Welcome Center downtown

These are just the ‘biggies,’ says the Family Support Center’s Patsy Wood who runs the base volunteer program. She said Air Force members, civilian employees and spouses have options to help youth, community theater,



2nd Lt. Jennifer Moore
First Lts. Mike Barron and Troy Arnold, 50th Flying Training Squadron instructor pilots, put in new tiling at the Mark Mitchell Shelter for underprivileged children Saturday.

scouts, churches, the elderly and more.

Ms. Wood keeps a listing of downtown agencies that need volunteers.

She also coordinates on-base volunteers in concert with other on-base agencies. She said April is a time when the National Points of Light Foundation honors the volunteer spirit.

“People are very busy,” Ms. Wood said, “but taking time to volunteer can inspire us to heal our hearts and communities by reaching out to others - especially now with the Iraq situation weighing on us.”

(Editor’s note: Volunteer Leadership, a national publication, recently featured Columbus AFB volunteers on the cover. The accompanying story was written by attorney Sarah Schmidt — spouse of Col. Steve Schmidt, 14th Flying Training Wing commander.)

to take the elderly to doctor’s appointments, grocery shopping and other activities. To volunteer or for more information, call the United Way at 328-0943.

❑ Market Street Festival, May 3, will see downtown Columbus turned into an old-fashioned open-market with food, entertainment, children’s rides and other activities. Columbus AFB volunteers are needed for marking the streets, working concession stands, stages, directing traffic and other items. To volunteer or for more information, call 2nd Lt. Jennifer Moore at Ext. 7073.

❑ Wings Over Columbus, June 1, will mark the successes in Iraq and honor 100 years of powered flight. Volunteers are needed. For more information or to sign up, call Master Sgt. Mable Brackens at Ext. 2790.

Columbus events, groups request time, talent

- ❑ Earth Day and Great American Clean-up. Local coordinator Deborah Hester will appreciate volunteers to assist with talks at local schools to prevent litter and encourage recycling, 364-1868.
- ❑ Habitat for Humanity — a home for a family of nine is being built totally by CAFB volunteers. Tech. Sgt. Steve Bachant, Habitat for Humanity contact, still welcomes food and manpower to finish the house. To volunteer, call Ext. 2776.
- ❑ Lowndes County Council on Aging sponsors meals on wheels and dial-a-bus

CHIEF (Continued from Page 1)

Later that day, the Columbus AFB Honor Guard performed a mock funeral for the Chief.

“You never know how you are affecting people out their and how you ease their mind and a little bit of their pain,” Chief Williams said, who’s father — a retired chief — passed away in December 2001.

Chief Williams was also there to congratulate the Air Education and Training Command’s Honor Guardsman of the Year, Senior Airman Thaddaeus Werner.

“I am a very lucky man,” Chief Williams said. “I get to put on this uniform and work with my heroes every day. You’re my heroes.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Dorm dinner

The monthly enlisted dorm dinner is at 5 p.m. Thursday at the enlisted dorm pavilion. The menu is hamburgers and all the fixings. For more information, call Ext. 2500.

Finance closure

The finance office closes at 11: 30 a.m. today for an official function. For emergencies call 425-6422 or the command post at Ext. 7020.

Logistics closure

The 14th Logistic Readiness Division closes at 11:30 a.m. today for an official function. For emergencies, call 364-1177 or 425-6526.



Drug seminar gives vital information

Airman Alexis Lloyd
Public affairs

A drug seminar sponsored by the life skills center was offered for base personnel April 11 at the Columbus Club. The Lowndes County Sheriff Department gave information on inhalants and other drugs plaguing the local area. “This is one of the worst places I’ve been in Mississippi for drugs,” said Tim Powell, Lowndes County Sheriff Department. Inhalants are often referred to as the

“silent epidemic” because they can’t be detected through any type of drug tests, said Julie Jones, life skills center. Studies have shown inhalant abuse compromises immune mechanisms in the body and slows down the body’s functions. Common household products that can be used as inhalants are:
☐ Whipping cream in cans
☐ Nail polish and nail polish remover
☐ Typewriter correction fluid
☐ Permanent and dry erase markers
☐ Paints
☐ Hair spray

According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 8.6 percent of children ages 12 to 17 had used inhalants in 2001. “Don’t let the small town fool you,” Ms. Jones said. “Parents should be prepared for all types of drugs in Columbus.” “This seminar helped me gain information I can take back to my squadron to help with catch people using drugs,” said Airman 1st Class Winston Ellison, 14th Security Forces Squadron. For more information on drugs or inhalants, call Ext. 2239.

Officials warn of flea, tick collar dangers

WASHINGTON — Pentagon officials are, once again, advising servicemembers that flea and tick collars work great on pets, but not on humans. And officials at the Armed Forces Pest Management Board said good-intentioned citizens and family members should not include the collars in care packages to troops. Responding to reports that people and organizations are sending pet collars to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, Army Maj. Dwight Rickard, contingency liaison officer for the board, warned of the dangers involved. “That some organizations with good intentions were doing this concerned us,” Mr. Rickard said. “Flea and tick collars are not approved for humans and, in fact, are quite detrimental to the skin. Our skin is different from that of dogs, and the pesticides tend to burn our skin.” There is also potential to absorb pesticides into the skin, which “as you can imagine, is not healthy,” he said. Flea and tick collars contain the pesticides organophosphates, carbamates, pyrethroids and organochloride. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, these chemicals may produce adverse effects and have not been tested for human use. In September 1990, the Army’s Health Services Command released a message warning that prolonged exposure to the col-

lars could produce toxic effects in humans. Shortly thereafter, post and base exchange stores put up signs to warn of the dangers. In 1999, the Rand Corp., a research firm, surveyed thousands of Gulf War veterans on their use of pesticides in that war as the Defense Department searched for possible links to illnesses in Gulf War veterans. The survey did not provide definite evidence of a link to Gulf War illness, but a number of veterans had reported using pet flea and tick collars to protect themselves against insects. From the survey data, about 3 percent of soldiers, sailors and Marines and about 1 percent of airmen serving in the Gulf are estimated to have used animal flea and tick collars. The survey stated that most veterans who used flea collars wore them over their clothes or shoes, which helped minimize exposure to the active ingredient. Mr. Rickard emphasized that the collars work very well on dogs, but hardly at all on humans. “If you put them on a humans, the fleas and ticks won’t go near the collar, but they will go everywhere else,” he said. To learn more about the insect repellant system, visit the pest management board’s Web site at <http://www.afpmb.org>. (Courtesy of Air Force Print News.)



ALS grads

Columbus AFB congratulates the Airman Leadership School students who graduated April 10. Graduates are (from left to right): Senior Airmen Kevin Martens, 14th Security Forces Squadron; Patrick Cone, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron; Billy White, 14th Mission Support Group; Antwaun Abrams, 14th Operations Support Squadron; Zachariah Ridgeway, 14th OSS; Jonathan Brinson, 14th Contracting Squadron; Kimberly Whiteside, 14th Communications Squadron; Jeffrey Risley, 14th CS; Patricia Johnson, 14th SFS; Glenn Dowling, 50th Flying Training Squadron; Tonya O’Toole, 14th Medical Operations Squadron; William Mathis, 14th OSS; Mario Stewart, 14th CONS; Patrick James, 14th OSS; Michelle Sweeney, 14th SFS; and Edward Vega, 14th SFS. The award winners are: John Levitow award, Mathis; Distinguished Graduate, O’Toole; Military Leadership Award, Martens; and Academic Achievement, Risley.

Air Force expectations lead to higher personal goals

Master Sgt. Marty Anderson
14th Medical Group



Throughout my Air Force career, I was fortunate to have excellent supervisors, first sergeants and chiefs who sat me down and explained Air Force expectations. Those expectations have helped me meet professional and personal goals while serving. They taught me how my own actions can have a positive or negative impact while serving my country in the Air Force. I would like to share with you those words of wisdom that have helped me to become successful as a senior NCO and first sergeant. My very first lesson came from a chief. I was a two striper right out of technical training school. He told me I was going to be part of the unit’s Christmas party committee. Your assumptions regarding “Chiefs didn’t ask what you wanted to do, but what you are going to do,”

would be correct. So at the first meeting the squadron commander asked me what I thought. I told him I heard last year’s Christmas party was “not that good” and made a suggestion. For some reason the commander was not happy with what I said. I returned and said I may have upset the commander. The chief asked me what happened. I explained what I said while reminiscing about how I have enjoyed my one-year in the Air Force. He told me not to worry about it. He said if someone asks you question and they don’t want to know the answer, they never should have asked the question to begin with. What he told me was, that sometimes people have to hear the truth whether they like it or not. He took “Integrity” to another level. People need to know the truth. That may mean telling your supervisors when things are going well or not going well. It may also mean telling your troops they are either outstanding or need some improvement. If you are trying to help a troop who needs improvement, be honest, sincere, have a mindset you are trying to help him or her improve and you will

increase your chances for a positive outcome. Too often, supervisors wait for someone else to correct a problem or address an issue. By the time someone finally takes care of the problem it has escalated. People want to know what is expected and how they are doing. Don’t disappoint them. A staff sergeant, who’s now a senior master sergeant, taught me what comes around goes around. If you work hard and take pride in what you do, in the end you will be rewarded (personally and professionally). It may not be right away, but it will happen particularly when you are not looking for it or expecting it. The point he made with me was, do things because you know it needs to be done, it is your job, and will show you care. Then at some point in time, someone will surely recognize your efforts. He also stated, don’t be the person that says, “What is in it for me?” I guess he understood the concept of “Service before self” before it was ever named as an Air Force core value. I have always enjoyed submitting troops in for quarterly awards or decorations when they least expect it.

See GOALS, Page 5

TODAY’S MESSAGE

More than 40,000 airmen and 800 airplanes representing every Air Force capability were used in the fight and destroying Saddam Hussein’s regime and liberating the Iraqi people. In the first 27 days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Air Force airmen:
☐ Flew more than 24,000 sorties, or 58 percent of the coalition total
☐ Flew more than 8,200 airlift sorties, or 95 percent of the coalition total, and moved almost 63,000 short-tons of cargo and almost 90,000 passengers
☐ Flew more than 5,800 aerial refueling sorties, or 66 percent of the coalition total, and offloaded more than 51 million gallons of fuel
☐ Flew more than 230 CSAR sorties, or 86 percent of the coalition total
☐ Flew more than 840 C2ISR sorties, or 30 percent of the coalition total
☐ Flew about 140 Predator and Global Hawk surveillance and strike sorties
☐ Flew more than 6,300 strike sorties, or 40 percent of the coalition total
☐ Flew more than 2,800 air & space supremacy sorties, or 53 percent of the coalition total

STRAIGHT TALK LINE

The Straight Talk Line is your direct line to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better. Although the Straight Talk Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain of command. The Straight Talk Line phone number is 434-7058. Callers should leave their full name and phone number to receive an answer. All names are kept confidential. Messages are answered in the Silver Wings without names. Written questions may also be brought to the public affairs office in the wing headquarters building, Bldg. 724. People can also access the Straight Talk program through the Blazeweb at <https://columbusweb> and the main website at www.columbus.af.mil. Questions and answers will be edited for brevity.



SILVER WINGS

Published by the Commercial Dispatch Publishing Company, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with the 14th Flying Training Wing. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Silver Wings are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Air Force or

Service Publications, Inc., of the products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 14th Flying Training Wing public affairs office of Columbus AFB, Miss. All photos are U.S. Air Force photos unless stated. All advertising should be submitted to the Commercial Dispatch, advertising department, Columbus, Miss., phone 328-2427. All editori-

al copy should be submitted to the public affairs office, Bldg. 724, Columbus AFB, Miss., phone 434-7069, or e-mailed to silverwings@columbus.af.mil by 2 p.m. Friday. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit or rewrite all copy submitted when necessary.

Silver Wings Editorial Staff
14th FTW commander
Col. Steve Schmidt
Chief, public affairs
Pam Warnken
Editor
Airman Alexis Lloyd

Key phone numbers

Base Exchange.....	434-6013
Chaplain.....	434-2500
Civil Engineer Service Desk.....	434-2856
Civilian Personnel.....	434-2635
Clinic:	
Family Practice.....	434-2172
Appointment Desk.....	434-2273
After Hours Care.....	434-2273
Columbus Club.....	434-2489
Commissary.....	434-7106
Finance.....	434-2706
Housing Maintenance.....	434-7370
Inspector General.....	434-2927
Legal Office.....	434-7030
Military Equal Opportunity.....	434-2591
Security Forces.....	434-7129
Shoppette.....	434-6026

GOALS (Continued from Page 4)

It tells me the person cares about others and the mission more than themselves. I know you have to take care of yourself (it's a shame because a supervisor at some level is not doing their job), but always remember, someone will notice that you are constantly doing good things and will ensure your efforts don't go unnoticed.

A chief first sergeant grabbed me by the ear when I was promoted to staff sergeant. He began explaining NCOs take pride in what they do and who they are. They fulfill their NCO responsibilities and work hard to take care of their people.

That may mean being the first person to reprimand a troop if he/she fails to meet standards, or may mean staying late and writing a 1206 to submit their troop for a quarterly award or decoration. He also ensured I fully understood NCOs have a responsibility for getting involved when their troops have personal/professional problems. This is not a choice but an obligation. He stated NCOs ensure their people are trained and have the information needed to make the right decision in a variety of situations. This is accomplished because

NCOs take the time to speak with their troops regarding standards, conduct, problems, and most importantly individual responsibilities on a variety of issues. The information he shared with me during that very short one-sided conversation taught me that I represent more than just myself. His last statement to me was, by not fulfilling my NCO responsibilities I could erode the time-honored respect and courtesies that so many others before me have worked hard to earn.

If I did anything to jeopardize the trust placed in me or fail to meet my obligations as an NCO, he would personally ensure I was no longer a NCO in the United States Air Force!" NCOs must demonstrate the whole person concept through their actions and not just words. NCOs look sharp and act professionally.

They go to school to better themselves so they may use the knowledge to better the Air Force and the people they supervise. NCOs are involved in the squadron, base and community. I understand I wrote this article from a NCO's perspective. I am a NCO and very proud of it. But if you read this and said, "Well

this is for NCOs and doesn't apply to me," you missed the message. I was fortunate to meet individuals (supervisors and friends) in the Air Force who cared enough about me to take time out of their busy lives to help me improve and achieve not only Air Force goals but personal goals as well.

I know writing an article in a base paper isn't going to necessarily inspire anyone. However, I truly believe sitting down with someone and sincerely discussing expectations, problems, and/or future goals (organizational and personal) has a positive impact on someone's life. This is your responsibility at every level. When providing feedback to your troops, don't view it as a task but as an opportunity to help your people improve and make the Air Force a better place for us all.

I do have one last final thought, never think of yourself as just an airman basic, staff sergeant or master sergeant. Think of yourself as a professional airman, NCO, Senior NCO, serving your country in the Air Force. Your experiences will be so much more rewarding.

AT THE CHAPEL

Chapel schedule

Catholic

Sunday activities:

9:15 a.m. — Mass

10:30 a.m. — CCD

5 p.m. — Confessions

5:30 p.m. — Mass

Wednesday

11:30 a.m. — Mass

Today — Good Friday service at noon

Saturday — Easter Vigil Mass at 8 p.m.

Sunday — Easter Mass at 9:15 a.m.

Protestant

Sunday activities:

9 a.m. — Sunday school

10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship

1 p.m. — Contemporary worship

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. — Video Bible study supper

7:15 p.m. — Choir rehearsal

Thursdays

11:30 a.m. — Lunch Bible study

For Islamic, Jewish, Orthodox or other services, call the chapel at Ext. 2500.

AT THE MOVIES

The theater is closed for renovations until further notice. For more information, call the shoppette at 434-6026.

CHANNEL 64

BLAZE 64 offers announcements for people living in base housing or the dormitories.

Call 2nd Lt. Joseph Coslett for more information at Ext. 7065.

Weekdays

9 a.m., noon and 2 p.m.

Air Force Television News

Monday through April 25

9:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.

College Level Examination

Program Tapes:

Introduction to Management

FAMILY SUPPORT



(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information, call Ext. 2790.)

Videophones: Videophones are available for family members of deployed, TDY or remote military.

Teaching briefing: An information workshop for people interested in learning to become a teacher is from 1 to 3 p.m. April 17 at the education center.

The event gives information on how to become certified as a teacher.

Representatives from Mississippi University for Women, Americorps and Mississippi Troops to Teachers are at the workshop.

For more information, call the family support center or Luther Turner at Ext. 2565.

Spouse employment: The spouse employment initiative program is an eight-week Microsoft Office environment computer course designed for integration of Microsoft programs.

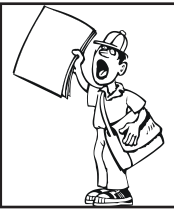
Class is from 6 to 9 p.m. April 29 and continues Tuesdays and Thursdays.

For more information or to register, call the family support center.

Children and war: The family support center offers their services to help parents explain war and deployments to their children.

Stop by the FSC to pick up complete packages to help make children less confused.

BASE NOTES



Playgroup: The Mommy and Me playgroup is from 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays at the youth center.

This is a weekly playgroup for ages 18 months to 3 years and their parents. There is no cost.

Fathers are always welcome. For more information, call Birgit Coslett at 434-5876.



Courtesy photo

Market Street Festival

Columbus's annual Market Street Festival is scheduled for May 3, turning downtown into an old-fashioned street market with food, bands, crafts and children events. Admission to the day-long event is free.

Change of command: The 14th Medical Operations Squadron's change of command is at 9 a.m. April 23 at the wing ceremonial plaza.

Lt. Col. Harvey Kelley will be relinquishing command to Lt. Col. Kathryn Hall.

Commissioning brief: The mass commissioning brief is from 9 to 11 a.m. April 24 at the education center.

The event covers an overview of all the enlisted commissioning programs as well as invited guest speakers.

For more information or to sign up, call Ext. 2562.

Law day: The 14th Flying Training Wing Legal Office announces activities for Law Day 2003. Law Day is May 1, and this year the theme is "In Pursuit of Peace."

Activities include a Law Day Art Contest for grades 1 to 8. Entries are due no later than 5 p.m. April 25.

Complete rules may be obtained at the legal office. For more information, call Ext. 7034 or email charissa.pipes@columbus.af.mil.

Additional activities will be announced at a later date.

OSC social: The Columbus AFB Officers' Spouses Club deadline to sign

up for the next social is noon May 6.

The social is at 6:30 p.m. May 13 at the Columbus Club. The menu is lasagna with salad for \$11.50. Club members receive a \$2 discount. For reservations or more information, call 434-5511 or e-mail davidjeastman@cableone.net.

Vacation bible school: Registration for vacation bible school begins April 21 to June 2.

This year's theme is SCUBA — Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure.

The VBS lasts from 9 a.m. to noon June 2 through June 6.

Volunteers are needed for this program. For more information or to volunteer, call Joy Garrison at Ext. 2500.

Car care: The auto hobby shop offers basic car care classes.

The classes teach oil changes, tire rotations and many other do-it-yourself skills. For more information or to sign up for a class, call Ext. 7842.

Thrift store: The thrift store is now taking spring and summer items for consignment one hour before shop closes.

The shop is open from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays.

The next garage sale is from 8 to 11 a.m. May 3. For more information, call 434-2954.

Annual Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt brings fun for all ages



Gavin Gilder, 21 months old, puts an Easter egg in his basket his dad, Staff Sgt. Jerome Gilder, is holding.

Airman Alexis Lloyd
Public affairs

Little, chubby hands clumsily reach for a bright colored piece of plastic. One down — 500 more to go.

This thrilling task was faced by many during the annual Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt Saturday at Freedom Park.

More than 350 people and about 60 volunteers visited the park to hunt for eggs, play games and enjoy the weather.

“It was fun for adults, kids and the

volunteers — overall a great day,” said Terri Graves, youth center specialist.

Games like putt-putt, go fishing and bottle bowling kept children busy from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The day began with the 1- to 2-year-old egg hunt. And then followed by the 3 to 4, 5 to 6, 7 to 10 and 11 and up egg hunts.

The Torch Club donated three Easter baskets to families who had a parent deployed.

McGruff, the crime dog, showed up to mix with the crowd. McGruff gave out Drug

Abuse Resistance Education pins to children.

“I love being able to see children be totally afraid of McGruff and then 15 minutes later keep coming up for hugs and high-5s,” said Airman 1st Class Jennifer Rossin, McGruff volunteer for the event.

The face painting station was busy during the entire event.

“I had a really good time,” said Staff Sgt. Rhonda Knipmeyer, volunteer face painter.

“It’s such an awesome feeling to give [the children] the mirror to see their face and see a great big smile on their face.”



McGruff, the crime dog, gives Emma Harbison, 22 months old, a high-five during the annual spring fling event.



Airman 1st Class Jonathan Glass, volunteer, paints the face of Brendon Bailey, 6 years old.



Matthew Pena, 5 years old, bowls for wooden bottles.



Pam Wickham

Strike it rich
Gail Caldiero lines up for a shot at the bowling center's monthly no-tap bowling tournament for all levels of bowlers. Register by 6:45 p.m. today and games begin at 7 p.m. Entry is \$7.50 per person. Call Ext. 2425.

American Cafe open: The Columbus Club's American Cafe opens from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Fridays and is open to all ranks.

Tonight's chef special features a bacon wrapped filet mignon and shrimp wellington with petal sauce and served with broccoli and carrots, roasted peppers and onions, tossed salad and roll for \$19.95.

Club members receive a \$2 discount. Call Ext. 2489.

All ranks bingo: Games begin at 6 p.m. Fridays in the community center ballroom. People play five \$75 regular games, one \$125 odd and even coverall game and a \$1,000 progressive jackpot game. Consolation prize is \$150 if the jackpot does not go in 50 numbers or less. Admission fees for nonmembers are \$5. Payout is based on a minimum number of players. Call Ext. 2489.

Variety night: Disc jockey Kool Kleve offers variety sounds starting at 9 p.m. today at the enlisted lounge.

Dinner theater: "Play it Again Sam," a dinner theater is April 19 at the Columbus Club. The play is a comedy about the nerdy film critic's obsession with Humphrey Bogart. Cost is \$25 for club members and \$30 for nonmembers.

Tickets on sale at the Columbus Club. Call Ext. 2489.

Easter brunch: The Columbus Club offers an all-ranks brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$10.95 and club members receive a \$2 discount.

Call Ext. 2489.

Enlisted lounge open: The enlisted lounge is open from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m.

every Thursday. Beginning May 3, the enlisted lounge will be open Saturdays.

Call Ext. 2489.

Youth center members appreciation night: All youth center members are invited to this free program offered from 6 to 8 p.m. April 25. Call Ext. 2504.

Teen dance: The youth center offers a preteen dance from 7 to 9 p.m. April 26. Cost is \$2 for members and \$3 for nonmembers. Call Ext. 2504.

Preteen lock-in: Registration ends April 28 for this all-night event for ages 9-12. Cost is \$10 and includes midnight meal, snacks, breakfast, movies, games, music and many other activities throughout the night. Lock-in starts at 10 p.m. May 17 and ends at 7 a.m. the next morning. Call Ext. 2504.

Youth center star search: Register by May 3 for the star search weekend beginning at 5 p.m. May 16-17 for ages 9 to 12. Call Ext. 2504.

Crafts classes: The skills development center offers classes for both youth and adult. Morning, afternoon and evening classes in May for adults include making a mosaic stepping stone May 6, a garden angel May 13, an Uncle Sam door hanging May 20 and a ribbon woven pillow May 27.

Youth classes include making a gift for Mom May 7, a wooden airplane barrette holder May 14, a mosaic garden stone May 21 and a placemat May 28. Youth classes are offered at 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Register at least four days prior to class date. Call Ext. 7836.

Crafts classes: The skills development center offers classes for both youth and adult. Morning, afternoon and evening classes in May for adults include making a mosaic stepping stone May 6, a garden angel May 13, an Uncle Sam door hanging May 20 and a ribbon woven pillow May 27.

Youth classes include making a gift for Mom May 7, a wooden airplane barrette holder May 14, a mosaic garden stone May 21 and a placemat May 28. Youth classes are offered at

11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Register at least four days prior to class date. Call Ext. 7836.

Swimming pool information: Beginning May 12, the outdoor recreation program will begin taking reservations for pool parties, and swim lessons. Pool passes may also be purchased at this time. The pool is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend. Call Ext. 7858.

Beale Street music festival: The information, ticket and travel office offers a trip to the Memphis, Tenn. Beale Street music festival May 2 to May 4. The festival features all types of music includes blues, rock, gospel, rhythm and blues, soul and alternative.

Cost is \$125 per person and includes transportation, two nights lodging (double occupancy). Tickets to the music festival are sold separately. A \$50 deposit is required when registering. Limited seating is available. Call Ext. 7858.

Canton flea market: In May and October of every year, the city of Canton, Miss., closes down for one of the largest flea markets and crafts fairs in this region.

The day will be filled with crafts, vendors, specialty item vendors and foods of all sorts. The next market is May 8 and the information, ticket and travel office is offering this trip for \$20 per person which includes transportation.

Call Ext. 7858 for a reservation.

Kids' Kamp 2003: Registration for this program is at the youth center for children ages 5 to 12. A \$10 per week deposit is required the day of registration. Weekly fees are based on family income. Call Ext. 2504.

Whitewater rafting trip: Join the information, ticket and travel staff down the white waters of the Ocoee River in Tennessee June 7 to June 9.

Cost is \$95 per person and includes two meals, two nights lodging, transportation, guide service and river run. A \$50 deposit is required when registering. Call Ext. 7858.

Canoe trip: The outdoor recreation program offers a canoe trip June 14 on the Buttahatche River. Cost is \$15 per person and includes canoe rental and lunch. Call Ext. 7858.

For more information, call 328-2110.

Murder mystery: A mystery dinner theater begins at 7 p.m. April 26 at the Hogarth Dining Center Banquet Room at the Mississippi University for Women.

"The Case of the Murdered Munitions Magnate," a Sherlock Holmes mystery, features MUW faculty and students.

Tickets cost \$25 and includes dinner. The table that solves the mystery first wins a prize.

For more information, call 329-7267 or 329-7333.

Festival: Market Street Festival in downtown Columbus is May 3 with artist booths, food, bands and family fun. For more information, call 328-6305.

Re-enactment: The 137th annual recreation of the solemn gesture that four Columbus women performed April 25, 1866, which evolved in to the nation's Memorial Day is at 4 p.m. May 25 at Friendship Cemetery.

Green thumbs: Growing season is here and Mississippi State University's extension service offers a toll-free horticulture hotline at (888) 920-4678 to help gardeners get lawns under control and plant beautiful gardens.

Master gardeners answer questions ranging from basic yard problems to creating a butterfly garden.

Another resource on gardening is www.msucares.com.

Columbus Club Lunch Buffet

Served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

\$7.95 per person — Club members receive \$2 discount — Cost includes vegetable, tossed salad and beverage — Ala carte menu also available

Today

Fried catfish
Popcorn shrimp
Apple cobbler

Monday

Fried chicken
Chicken fried steak
Cherry cobbler

Tuesday

Swedish
meatballs/pasta
Baked ham
Banana pudding

Wednesday

Pork chops
Beef tips
Apple cobbler

Thursday

Soup, salad and spud bar



Airman Alexis Lloyd

Little killers

Erin and Madison Hudnall, Knights, chase after Yusef Moore, Bears, during the spring soccer league in the 8- to 10-year-old division. For more information on the youth programs, call Ext. 2504.

SHORTS

Combat fun run-walk

Take in a 1.5-mile walk or a 3-mile run at 6 a.m. May 7 at the fitness and sports center. This is a competition between squadrons. Teams will consist of six people, with a minimum of two women per team. Participants compete in their BDUs and will compete in the arena of pushups, sit-ups and a timed run. Call Ext. 2772.

Mothers Day Special

Moms bowl for \$1 per game and free shoes from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 11. All others pay regular price.

Bench press competition

A bench press competition begins at 9 a.m. May 17 at the fitness and sports center. Sign ups are accepted until the event begins. There will be seven weight categories for men and four for women. All competitors will receive a free T-shirt and trophies are awarded to winners in each category. For more information or to sign up, call Ext. 2772.

Bowling standings	Team	Wins	Losses
The following are the intramural Thursday league standings as of April 10.	Misfits	160	72
	Strokin	146	86
	14th OSS	122	110
	SFS #1	108	124
	48th FTS	102	130
	SFS #2	32	200

BARGAIN LINE